

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINSHA 02089 01 OF 02 101700Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

AID-05 PC-01 ACDA-07 SCS-03 SCA-01 OPR-02 /053 W

-----101706Z 108659 /41

O 101235Z MAR 77 ZFF-6

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2185

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USCINSEUR VAIHINGEN GER/ECJ4-7 IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

DIA WASH DC IMMEDIATE

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KINSHASA 2089

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (SEC INFO OMITTED ORIG)

PLEASE PASS PEACE CORPS, WASHDC

USIA FOR IOP, AND IAA

E.O. 1165: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PFOR, PINS, CG, AO

SUBJECT: ANGOLAN ATTACK ON ZAIRE: SITREP NUMBER 1

1. FOLLOWING IS A MISSION WIDE SURVEY INCLUDING REPORT FROM LUBUMBAS

HI:

2. MILITARY SITUATION

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PAGE 02 KINSHA 02089 01 OF 02 101700Z

A) ENEMY FORCES

1) ACCORDING TO ZAIRIAN AUTHORITIES, SHABA TOWNS OF KAPANGA, DILOLO AND KISENGE WERE OVERRUN BY ENEMY FORCES ON 8 MARCH 1977.

2) ACCORDING ZAIRIAN SOURCES, THE TOWN OF KASAJI FELL TO ENEMY FORCES THE FOLLOWING DAY, 9 MARCH, AT 2200 HOURS. HOWEVER, METHODIST MISSIONARIES IN AREA REPORT NO FIGHTING EITHER SANDOA OR KASAJI, ALTHOUGH KASAJI REPORTS MUCH MILITARY TRAFFIC IN

DIRECTION OF FRONTIER AND SOUND OF ARTILLERY FROM THAT DIRECTION.

3) INTELLIGENCE FROM FAZ SOURCES IN THE REGION IS THAT THE ENEMY GROUND ATTACK AT KISENGE WAS CARRIED OUT BY A COMPANY-SIZED UNIT ARMED WITH AUTOMATIC WEAPONS AND MORTARS. ONLY FOOT TROOPS, INCLUDING WHITES, WERE OBSERVED AT KISENGE.

4) NO INFORMATION ON THE SIZE OF ENEMY FORCES AT OTHER LOCATIONS HAS BEEN RECEIVED.

5) CONTRARY TO EARLIER REPORTS, AMERICAN MISSIONARIES AT THE TOWN OF SANDOA SAID 10 MARCH THAT THE TOWN HAD NOT BEEN ATTACKED.

6) THE COMMANDER OF THE 8TH MILITARY REGION (SHABA) REPORTED TO KINSHASA THAT ENEMY FORCES, AFTER CONSOLIDATING, WERE MOVING IN THE DIRECTION OF THE LARGE FAZ BASE AT KAMINA. GENERAL BABIA SAID THAT SINCE NO POL IS AVAILABLE AT KAMINA, HE HAS ORDERED FORCES THERE TO ASSUME A STATIC DEFENSE.

7) ZAIRIAN AUTHORITIES BELIEVE THAT THE ATTACKING FORCES ARE FORMER KATANGAN GENDARMES, WHO HAVE LIVED IN ANGOLA SINCE 1967, WITH SOME WHITE, CUBAN TROOPS ASSISTING.

B) ZAIRIAN FORCES

8) FOLLOWING INITIAL REPORTS OF AN ATTACK ON KISENGE ON 8 MARCH, MOBUTU ORDERED GENDARMERIE UNITS AT KOLWEZI TO PROCEED TO KISENGE. THESE UNITS GOT AS FAR AS KASAJI ON 8 MARCH BEFORE RUNNING OUT OF FUEL. AT THE TIME OF THE INITIAL ATTACKS, THE ONLY ZAIRIAN FORCES IN THE IMMEDIATE AREA WERE ONE PLATOON OF GENDARMES AT DILOLO AND ONE PLATOON OF GENDARME AT KISENGE.

9) ON 9 MARCH, ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF COLONEL MAMPA AND MOBUTU'S SPECIAL MILITARY ADVISOR COLONEL ELUKI FLEW TO KOLWEZI TO ASSESS THE SITUATION. SUBSEQUENTLY GENERAL BABIA ORDERED MAMPA
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PAGE 03 KINSHA 02089 01 OF 02 101700Z

TO MOVE THE 2ND PARAPATTALION AND ARMORED TROOP C TO KOLWEZI. (THE FRENCH MILITARY ATTACHE IN KINSHASA REPORTS THAT ARMORED TROOP C IS COMPOSED OF 32 PANHARDS, NONE OF WHICH IS PRESENTLY OPERABLE).

10) ONE FAZA C-130 FLEW TO LUBUMBASHI LATER ON 9 MARCH AND AIRLISTED 200 ZAIRIAN TROOPS OF THE 2ND PARABATTALION TO KOLWEZI. THE TROOPS WERE ORDERED TO PROCEED TOWARDS KASAJI BUT AS OF 10 AMRCH THEIR POSITION WAS REPORTED AT MUTSHATSHA (1039 S, 2427 E).

11) ACCORDING TO FAZ SOURCE, A C-130 WILL RETURN TO LUBUMBASHI ON 10 MARCH TO AIRLIFT MORE TROOPS TO KOLWEZI.

12) OTHER ZAIRIAN TROOPS IN THE SHABA REGION INCLUDE:

A. KOLWEZI - A GENDARMERIE BATTALION OF TWO COMPANIES.

B. KAMINA - 1ST PARACOMMANDO BATALION HEADQUARTERS, A MILITARY HOSPITAL, THE 8TH LOGISTICAL REGIMENT, A GENDARMERIE BATTALION AND TWO COMPANIES OF THE 3RD COMMANDO BATALION.

C. LIKASI - ONE GENDARMERIE COMPANY

D. LUBUMBASHI - ONE MOBILE GENDARMERIE BRIGADE WITH TWO BATTALIONS, THE 12TH INFANTRY BATTALION, AND THE REMAINING ELEMENTS OF THE 2ND PARABATTALION (APPROXIMATELY 500 TROOPS).

E. SHINKOLOBWE - ARMORED TROOP C.
F. KIPUSHI - 8TH INFANTRY BATTALION.

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PAGE 01 KINSHA 02089 02 OF 02 101446Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KINSHASA 2089

3. DOMESTIC REACTION

AS THE INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC MEDIA HAVE NOT YET YET FOCUSED ON THE DEVELOPING CRISIS, MOST ZAIRIANS ARE UNAWARE OF THE CONFLICT IN SHABA. THE GOZ HAS MAINTAINED AN APPEARANCE OF "BUSINESS AS USUAL", WITH THE PRESIDENT RETURNING TO KINSHASA FROM MBANDAKA TODAY AS PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED. HOWEVER, ONE EXPERIENCED ZAIRIAN POLITICAL OBSERVER, WHO LIVES IN KINSHASA AND IS WELL AWARE OF THE CONFLICT, NOTED THAT THE POLITICAL SITUATION IS TENSE, AND THAT A SUSTAINED ATTACK UPON SHABA BY THE ANGOLANS COULD IMPACT STRONGLY ON THE MOBUTU REGIME.

4. AMERICAN CITIZEN SITUATION

A) THE FOLLOWING METHODIST MISSIONARIES ARE REPORTEDLY UNDER HOUSE CONFINEMENT IN KAPANGA:
MISS MYRTLE PRITCHARD
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PAGE 02 KINSHA 02089 02 OF 02 101446Z

MRS. GAYE RADFORD
DR. GLEN ESCHTRUTH
MRS. LENA ESCHTRUTH
MISS PRUDENCE KUHRT - OF CONNECTICUT (BROTHER IS BELIEVED
TO BE PRESIDENT OF SKORSKY AIRCRAFT)
REF. MARVIN WOLFORD
MRS. JEAN WOLFORD
MR. RANDALL VINSON
OTHER MISSIONARIES, DR. PAULINE CHAMBERS,
MR. RICK RADFORD AND MR. BILLIE DAVIS ALSO RESIDENT AT KAPANGA,
WERE AWAY FROM THE MISSION AT THE TIME OF KAPANGA'S CAPTURE
AND ARE SAFELY LOCATED OUTSIDE THE COMBAT AREA.
B) AS OF 0715Z METHODIST MISSIONARIES AT SANDOA REPORT BY RADIO
THAT THEY ARE NOT PLANNING TO LEAVE.
METHODIST MISSIONARIES AT SANDOA ARE:
MR. STAN MAUGHLIN
MRS. JOANNE MAUGHLIN AND TWO CHILDREN
MR. WARREN JACKSON
MRS. LOIS JACKSON AND ONE CHILD
MR. FRANK ANDERSON
MRS. BETTY ANDERSON
ALSO AT SANDOA ARE TWO PCV'S, GLENNA WEINER AND JEAN O'LOUGHLIN
AND A DOCTORIAL STUDENT, STANLEY AND RACHEL YODER OF 11672-1/2
DARLINGTON AVE., WEST LOS ANGELES, CA 90049. TOTAL AMERICANS IN
SANDOA - 13.
C) FOR EMERGENCY DATA ON METHODIST MISSIONARIES, DEPARTMENT SHOULD
CONTACT DR. JUEL NORDBY, METHODIST BOARD OF MISSIONS, 475
RIVERSIDE DRIVE, NEW YORK, NY 10027. TELEPHONE (212) 678-6128.
D) IN KOLWEZI CONSTRUCTEURS INGA SHABA, A SUBSIDIARY OF MORRISON-
KNUDSON INTERNATIONAL OF BOISIE, IDAHO HAS STATIONED A TOTAL OF
82 AMERICANS, INCLUDING DEPENDENTS. NAMES OF CIS EMPLOYEES IN
KOLWEZI WILL FOLLOW IF NEEDED BY SEPTTEL.
E) EMBASSY KNOWS OF NO RPT NO AMERICANS IN DILOLO AREA.
F) EMBASSY UPDATING NAMES AND EMERGENCY DATA FOR ALL AMERICANS
IN ZAIRE WORKING CLOSE ANGOLAN BORDER.
WALKER
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PAGE 03 KINSHA 02089 02 OF 02 101446Z

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Message Attributes

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